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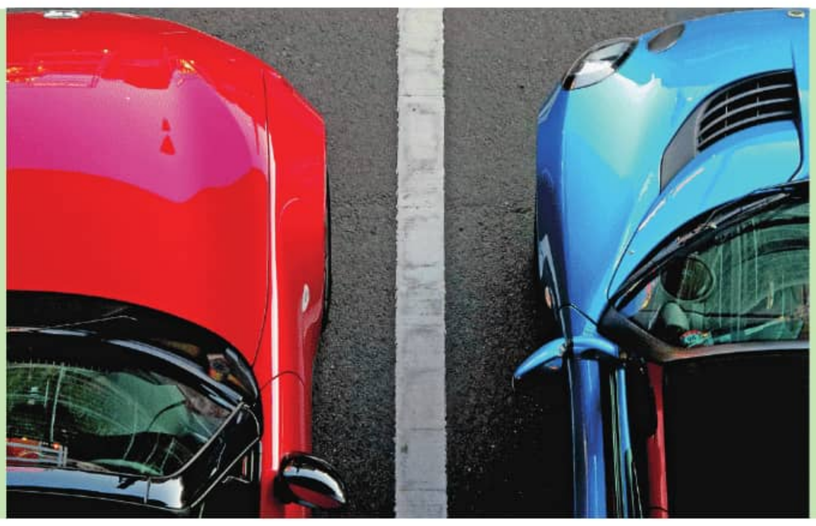
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 79% Light rain Sensex 85,231 | Nifty 26,068 | Gold 1,24,022 | Silver 1,53,378 | Dollar 88.81 | Euro 103.22 | GBP 117.20



PARK HERE

Greater Bengaluru Authority to draft plan to roll out pay-and-park across wards of all five city municipal zones

PAGE 2

IN THE HOOD

Lack of awareness on types of snakes, dependence on traditional treatments make rural populations vulnerable to deadly bites

PAGE 7

From celebrities to police officers, everyone is getting swept up in the cybercrime wave that claims at least 1,241 victims each month in state as people often forget to follow basic digital hygiene practices

SWINDLER'S LIST

Expert tips: Secure personal data, update passwords, complete verification process

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"People generally know the basic safety precautions whether during real-life emergencies or while navigating the online world. But when fear takes over, the mind stops responding logically — Chetan Anand, cyber security expert

Karnataka has recorded 12,406 cybercrime cases this year, which means around 1,241 cases each month. And it is not just the ordinary citizen, who is falling prey to these scams -- as celebrities, police officials, and even bank employees are swindled by sophisticated cybercriminals. Cyber crime experts say that people, caught up in their busy routines, often neglect basic digital hygiene practices such as securing personal data, updating passwords, and completing necessary verification processes. This lack of vigilance is proving costly, as cyber fraudsters continue to exploit even the slightest lapse in online security.

Recently, police arrested a 25-year-old man from Bihar for hacking the phones of actor Upendra, his wife Priyanka, and their manager, and cheating people through WhatsApp scams. Priyanka's hacked account sent messages seeking ₹55,000, and even the couple's son transferred ₹50,000. The probe revealed around 150 youths from the same region may be involved in this scam.

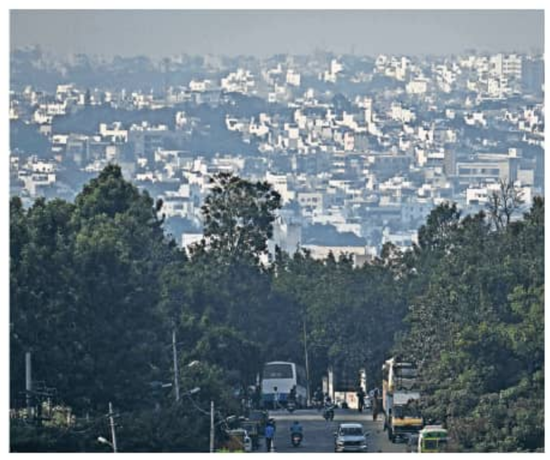
The accused was traced to Sonia Nagar in Delhi and arrested on November 6, where he confessed to working with accomplices.

Just two days after the mobile

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

Where's our vote?

Clock ticks, but no polls for new corporations this year too



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Even as the ward maps for the five new corporations carved out of BBMP were finally notified, activists and civic groups are slamming the State for dragging its feet on elections. With nearly 1 crore-plus residents living under ad-hoc administrative setups, the demand for polls has reached a fever pitch.

"The government has completed delimitation, so what's the excuse now? Bengaluru's new corporations cannot run forever without elected councils," said Meera B, an activist. Pramod Acharya, an urban researcher, added, "The Supreme Court has repeatedly warned against delaying urban local body polls. Any further postponement is contempt of democracy."

Ward-level activists are equally fiery. Jayalakshmi R, a local campaigner, pointed out, "These new corporations were created promising better governance. Instead, we are stuck with bureaucrats making all decisions. Residents have no say." The message is loud and clear: Activists are demanding a firm poll schedule before February 2026.

Even 2026 doubtful

Though wards are now finalised, the big question haunting ticket aspirants is whether the city corporation polls will actually take place in February 2026. The State Election Commission plans to publish the final voter list on January 29, after which ward-wise reservation must be announced,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Youth innovation

Knowledgeum Academy, an IB World School backed by the Jain Group, will host its flagship fest Odyssey 2025. Over 300 students from 20+ schools will participate in competitions and workshops in digital graffiti, theatre, dance, painting, fashion and more. **Where: Knowledgeum Academy & JSS Auditorium, 8th Block, Jayanagar; When: November 26 and 27, 9 am to 3 pm**

02 Rhythm & rhyme

Urban Solace celebrates its 16th anniversary with a special four-part poetry series, Poetry From the Heart, featuring five poets in each edition. The second edition will showcase four of Bangalore's finest poets—Soumya Ramasamy, Divya Ramachandran, Robina and Raphael Emileenaa—offering audiences an evening of soulful verses and a grand celebration of the city's vibrant poetry scene. **Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor; When: Nov 25, 7:30 pm to 9 pm**

03 Sing along

Watson's Indiranagar hosts Karaoke Nights with DJ Martin D'souza every Wednesday. Guests can belt out pop hits and chart-toppers while enjoying signature drinks and bar bites, turning midweek into a lively night of music, fun, and friends. **Where: Watson's, Indiranagar; When: November 26, 8 pm onwards**

04 Climb fest

Equilibrium Whitefield opens with EQUINOX 2025, a full-day climbing festival. Competitions, side challenges, live DJ sets, food, and goodies await over 600 participants. Winners take trophies, gear, and café vouchers in a celebration of climbing, community, and culture. **Where: Equilibrium Climbing Station, Hoodi-Whitefield; When: November 29, 1 pm to 10 pm**

05 Story session

Champaca Bookstore hosts the Half Light book launch this Sunday, featuring authors Mahesh Rao and Sumana Mukherjee. Attendees can meet the authors, discuss the book, and bring their questions for an interactive session. **Where: Champaca, Indiranagar; When: Nov 23, 6:30 pm**

Five civic zones to get paid parking soon

GBA moves to regulate rampant roadside vehicle dumping; MG Road pilot begins while multi-level parking complexes remain largely empty

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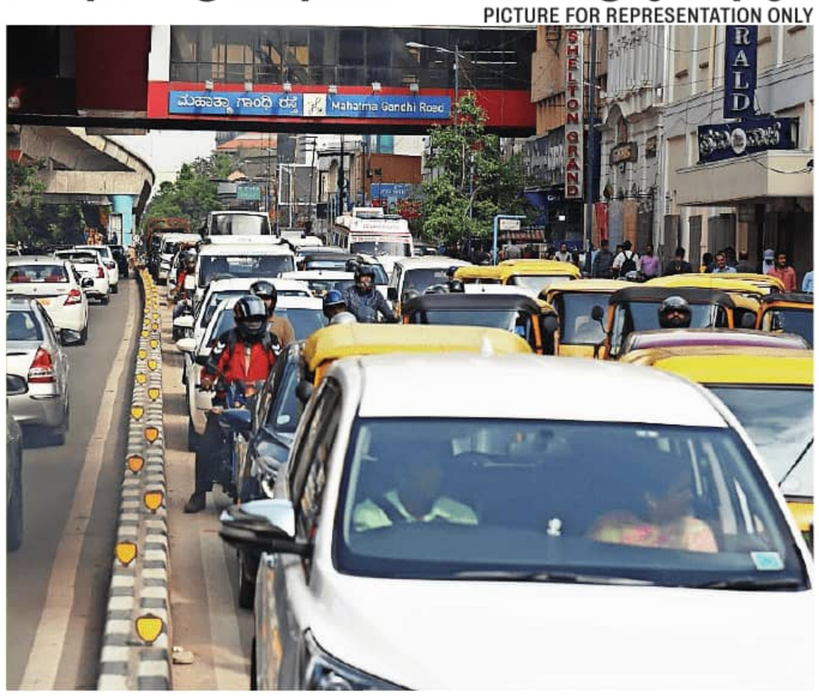
PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



Unregulated parking is forcing the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to draft a plan to roll out pay-and-park across wards in all five city municipal zones.

Most city roads currently have no parking fees, leading to free-for-all vehicle dumping along every available stretch. The result: shrinking carriageways, zero footpath safety, and slow, congested traffic. Even where pay-and-park exists, the system barely functions — due to missing signboards, unclear tariffs, and poorly demarcated bays.

Officials say that because unauthorised street parking is so widespread, Bengaluru's multi-level parking complexes remain grossly underused. To address this, the GBA is moving to introduce paid parking in key high-density neighbourhoods.

Study reopened

A previous Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) study had mapped space for car and bicycle parking, and over 23,200 two-wheeler slots across the city. The GBA is now reviewing these findings. A senior GBA official, requesting anonymity, said the Authority is preparing a pilot project to assess how a proper pay-and-park system performs — and what challenges arise.

The trial is already live on

City officials aim to reclaim footpaths, reduce congestion, and streamline traffic flow

MG Road, the central commercial spine under the Central City Corporation, and Yelahanka, under the North City Corporation. "Across all five municipal zones, high-footfall roads will be shortlisted for a one-month pilot. Based on the results, GBA plans to launch pay-and-park in select wards first, and later scale it citywide," an official said.

Multi-level parking on the cards

Beyond organising street parking, the project is also expected to boost GBA's revenue. The Authority has asked all five civic bodies to identify vacant land suitable for developing multi-level parking structures. Civic officials have already surveyed road widths, traffic flow, bus movement, and on-ground conditions to mark roads with high parking demand. This will help create clear parking bays for different vehicle types, improving order on the streets.

What the detailed study covers

The broader study includes:

- Demand assessment in key commercial hotspots
- Data collection and stakeholder consultations
- Blueprint for implementing pay-and-park
- Dedicated space for two-wheelers, cars, bicycles, micro-mobility vehicles, autos, loading/unloading zones, and pick-up/drop-off points

Cops begin probing 'electoral fraud' allegations in Mahadevapura

Karnataka police have launched an investigation after registering a case of electoral fraud over allegations that numerous fake voters were added to the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency voter list ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. An FIR was filed on Saturday. The FIR, booked under Section 129 of the Representation of the People Act and various sections of the BNS Act, names unknown individuals, an unnamed political party, officials, and private persons as accused.

The complaint was filed by 39-year-old Y Vinoda, a resident of Nallurhalli in Bengaluru and Congress Party President of the Marathalli Block, alleging fraudulent addition of fake voters to the Mahadevapura list under the Bengaluru Central Parliamentary Constituency. She claimed such large-scale manipulation could not have occurred without the involvement of certain government officials, political party members, and private individuals. Vinoda stated that the fraud undermined the democratic mandate and maintained that information regarding the alleged malpractice is already in the public domain. Whitefield police registered the FIR on November 19 and have begun identifying those involved.

Charging the Election Commission with colluding with the BJP to "steal seats and elections," Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, had on August 8, 2025, urged the State government to investigate alleged vote fraud in Mahadevapura and take action against officials implicated in the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency. The police investigation is ongoing. **— IANS**

Ramaiah hosts global medical summit

Global experts gather in Bengaluru to shape future of cell therapy and bone marrow transplants

Ramaiah Memorial Hospital and Ramaiah Medical College, in collaboration with the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT, a global NGO in official relations with the World Health Organization), inaugurated a Symposium on Cell Therapy – Bengaluru 2025, focused on the future of cellular therapy (BMT and CAR-T).

The event, co-organised by the Ramaiah Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy Program—established in 2014—was inaugurated by KB Sivakumar, IAS, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Services; Dr Nagendra Swamy SC, Chief Executive – Ramaiah Memorial Hospital & Healthcare Services, Gokula Educational Foundation (Medical); and Dr Damiano Rondelli, President of the WBMT.

The symposium convenes clinicians, scientists, researchers, and global experts from the USA, Europe, the UK, Japan, Brazil, Australia, and India to advance dialogue and collaboration in CAR-T therapies, haematopoietic cell transplantation, and cellular therapies. It marks a milestone for Indian healthcare, focusing on bone marrow transplants and gene therapy for blood cancers and congenital blood disorders.

WBMT President, Professor Damiano Rondelli, commented, "This symposium is extremely important to promote international collaboration, education, and capacity building. Bringing together speakers from this region will impact access to, and quality of, care for many patients in Asia."

Dr Nagendra Swamy SC highlighted the institution's commitment to improving access to advanced cell therapy and

global healthcare innovation. Dr Santhosh K Devadas added, "Cell therapy with genetically engineered blood cells represents the future of cancer therapy and a potential cure for genetically inherited diseases such as thalassemia."

B Sivakumar noted that symposiums help solve complex societal problems and assist governments. "We have introduced daycare chemotherapy centres and included bone marrow transplant under the health assurance scheme to make healthcare accessible to all," he said. **— BMB**

Kids must wear helmets now

The High Court has directed the Karnataka government to immediately implement the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, which require helmets and other safety measures for children travelling on two wheelers. The court stated that children aged nine months to four years, when carried as pillion passengers, must wear helmets and follow all mandatory safety protocols, and that authorities must continue public awareness campaigns on this issue.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru issued the order while hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by Dr K Archana Bhat, Head of the Psychology Department at Katile Ashok Pai Memorial College in Shivamogga. The court has granted the state six months to ensure the availability of the required safety equipment before fully enforcing the rule.

— BMB

Man kills brother over 'harassment of family': 3 held

CRIME FILES

A 24-year-old man was killed allegedly by his elder brother and two others inside a car and his body was dumped along the Bannerghatta–Kaggalipura road on the outskirts of the city, police said on Saturday.

The victim, Dhanraj, hailed from Aland taluk in Kalaburagi district where he lived with his parents, police said.

The three accused - victim's elder brother Shivaraj (28), his friends Sandeep (24) and Prashant (26) have been arrested in the case, police said.

According to police, Dhanraj was allegedly involved in thefts and frequently assaulted his parents after coming home drunk. Dhanraj often created a ruckus and had even attacked Shivraj when confronted about his behaviour.

Shivaraj, a cab driver, residing in HSR Layout area, allegedly decided to eliminate Dhanraj. He conspired with his friends — Sandeep and Prashant — both from Aland, to kill Dhanraj, a senior police officer said.

On November 2, Shivaraj allegedly called Dhanraj from Kalaburagi on the pretext of arranging a job. After picking him up near Bannerghatta NICE Road junction, he along with his accomplices allegedly restrained him inside the car, he said.

While Dhanraj sat in the front seat using his phone, Sandeep and Prashant allegedly held his hands from behind as Shivaraj struck him on the neck with a machete, killing him on the spot, police said.

The trio then allegedly dumped the body in roadside bushes along the Bannerghatta–Kaggalipura stretch and later discarding the car mat and the machete near the Electronic City NICE Road junction to destroy evidence, they said. The decomposed body was found on November 6. As the identity was unclear, investigators initially suspected an unnatural death, the officer said.

However, CCTV footage from a nearby private company showed a car dumping the body, leading investigators to trace the vehicle number, he said. Later, a case of murder was registered at Bannerghatta police station and after a thorough investigation, all the three accused were traced and arrested, police added. **–PTI**

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Courier agent arrested for selling Tapentadol tablets to students

A 27-year-old courier agent was arrested by the High Grounds police for allegedly selling Tapentadol tablets to students across the city. Police seized 6,700 tablets valued at around 40 lakh from the accused, identified as Prem alias Vaishnav, a resident of Binni Mill Road.

According to police officials, Prem was apprehended following a tip-off that he was supplying Tapentadol, an opioid-based prescription drug used to treat acute pain, to students. When misused, the drug can have narcotic-like effects. Officers said the tablets, which cannot be sold without a valid medical prescription, were allegedly sourced by Prem solely for peddling purposes.

Investigators revealed that the accused would regularly visit educational institutions, approach students on campus, and sell the tablets for 250 to 500 per piece. **–BMB**

Flooded potholes make Varthur road daily commute hazardous

Commuters face danger daily on Varthur Main Road; residents petition authorities for pothole repairs, functional drains, footpaths, and streetlights

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Residents of Gunjur, Varthur Kodi and the surrounding neighbourhoods have raised urgent concerns over the severely deteriorated condition of Varthur Main Road, particularly the stretch between Gunjur and Varthur Kodi. A formal petition with 121 signatories has been submitted to the Additional Commissioner of the Bengaluru East City Corporation, seeking immediate intervention.

Varthur Main Road is a critical arterial route used daily by schoolchildren, office-goers and thousands of commuters. However, the road has rapidly degraded over recent months – now marked by deep potholes, repeated flooding during rains, lack of streetlights and a complete absence of footpaths for pedestrian safety.

Residents want the authorities to fill the potholes on priority and ensure roadside drains are free from silt and debris to avoid flooding or waterlogging whenever it rains. They also demand that the authorities construct footpaths and install streetlights for the benefit of pedestrians. Sai Jayanath K Nair, a resident of Panacea Golden Nest Apartment, Gunjur, said that every single day feels like a risk. School buses get stuck, two-wheelers skid and ambulances struggle to move. "We are simply asking for a basic, motorable road. The situation has become so dangerous that it can take over an hour to cover even one to two kilometres during peak hours. Several media reports have highlighted accidents and serious injuries caused by this condition," he said.

Shrinivas Shetti, a resident of Prestige Lakeside Habitat on Varthur Main Road, said that residents have raised this issue on several occasions with the authorities concerned. "Flooding and potholes have made this stretch not just inconvenient but unliveable. During rains, the road becomes a waterlogged trap, and the craters only get deeper. The lack of streetlights makes it even more dangerous at night. Commuters, schoolchildren and pedestrians are forced to navigate in complete darkness. This is not just neglect; it is a serious safety hazard. We urgently need KRDCL to act responsibly and restore this road before more people get hurt," he said.

Manjusha Santha, a resident of Prestige Lakeside Habitat, said the situation for most residents who depend on this stretch every day has gone beyond inconvenience and is now affecting their lives. "Autorickshaws, cabs, delivery workers and office commuters lose hours stuck in waterlogged, cratered roads. Several vehicles have suffered damage, and families feel unsafe even walking because there are no footpaths or functional streetlights. This is not just a road issue; it is an issue of basic dignity and safety. We urgently need KRDCL to treat this as a priority," she said.

(Left) The condition of Varthur-Gunjur Road; (Right) One of the craters on Varthur-Gunjur Road

Thousands experience lengthy traffic jams as vehicles navigate cratered surfaces

Expressing concern over the condition of the road, Venkatachalam, BNP ward leader for Varthur, said the road is critical for East Bengaluru. "Allowing it to remain in this condition is unacceptable. The authorities must undertake repairs on priority, especially since this stretch falls directly under KRDCL's responsibility. Residents cannot continue to suffer due to administrative delays and poor coordination. BNP is ready to provide whatever support possible to make this road better," he said.

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Immediate repair

Richmond Town

Following the BM report, the footpath was repaired on the same day.

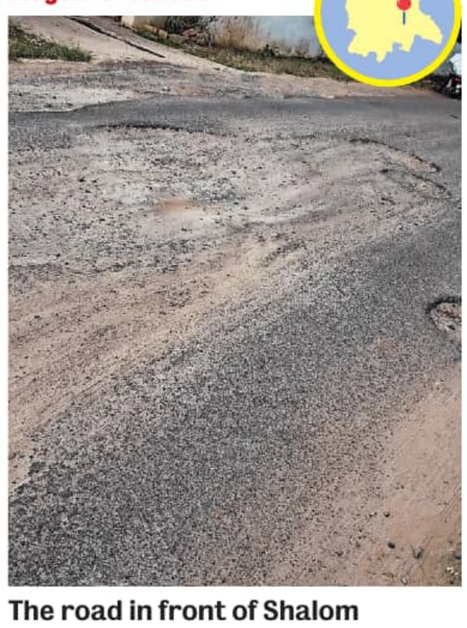
Sidewalk woes

Hanumanthnagar

The footpath on 4th Cross Main Road in Hanumantha Nagar has been dug up for a month but has not yet been repaired.

Repair needed

Rajanukunte



The road in front of Shalom Residency Apartments near Rajanukunte, Yelahanka, is badly damaged. Will the agency concerned repair it?

F.No. BAN/LANDS/113/E-AUC/III
DEFENCE ESTATES OFFICE, KARNATAKA CIRCLE
K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore - 560 042.
Ph: 080-25367213

E-AUCTION NOTICE

The intending bidders are invited to participate the E-Auction for Cutting and removal of 42 Nos. of various kinds of standing on Defence land inside the campus of **ASC Centre & College, Bangalore** will be conducted through E-Auction portal (**www.eauction.gov.in**) on **05.12.2025** between **1100 hours.**

The intending bidders are requested to visit the above mentioned E-Auction website and follow the instructions for creating/registering profile for bidding. Terms and conditions of the sale are available in the Public Auction Notice. The participants may download the same from the website mentioned above and submit a Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque for **Rs.6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand only) in favour of Defence Estates Officer, Karnataka Circle, Bangalore** as Earnest Money Deposit to this office for participating the auction, failing which they will not be allowed to participate in the auction. Bid auto extension will be 10 minutes.

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Big-money waste hire under fire

High rental costs prompt review of city's garbage machine hire plan

The Urban Development Department has asked the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to obtain third-party estimates and expert opinions before moving ahead with its plan to rent garbage-loading machines, following widespread objections from the public and elected representatives. The government had earlier vetted GBA's proposal, which invited tenders from all five municipal zones to hire these machines for seven years at an estimated ₹781.08 crore, and granted administrative approval for ₹613.25 crore as covered by BM on November 21.

Bangalore Mirror
Bengaluru's road-cleaning lease has raised dust, doubts and political heat; while GBA defends decision as being backed 1 year's research, critics say approved cost of Rs 613.25 crore doesn't add up
NOT QUITE DONE & DUSTED

BM reported Bengaluru road-cleaning lease sparks controversy; GBA cites year's research, critics question ₹613.25 crore

Authorities order expert estimates and comparisons before issuing fresh tenders for expensive garbage vehicles

However, amid strong criticism over the high rental costs, the department has now directed GBA to compare the specifications of different garbage-collection vehicles, identify the most suitable and cost-effective models for municipal needs, and only then proceed with calling fresh tenders.

— BMB

Fewer trees at risk than in original plan, but questions remain

Revised EIA reveals 6,828 trees to be impacted and not 11,000 as proposed in DPR of Metro phase 3 project, but experts demand transparency, ecosystem safeguards

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Plan still raises concerns over habitat disruption, macaque movement, and worrying organic pollution detected in groundwater samples near project sites

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has clarified that around 6,828 trees, with some classified as forest trees, will need to be cut to give way to Metro's Phase 3 corridors. In its Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, BMRCL has stated that these trees, including the dependent fauna will be affected by construction activities. However, the final decision on felling, transplantation, or pruning will be taken by the Tree Expert Committee.

The EIA notes that ecosystems may face degradation during construction and that nesting birds may be disturbed while trees are felled or transplanted. To reduce these impacts, the report recommends regular inspections and workforce training to ensure compliance with permit conditions and to minimise the number of trees removed. Compensatory plantation, wherever feasible, has also been suggested.

Environmentalists have welcomed BMRCL's revised plan. In December last year, BMRCL's detailed project report (DPR) had projected that over 11,000 trees were likely to be cut or transplanted for the construction of 44.65 km of metro line and 31 stations. Activists say that the agency must explain the change clearly. "There has to be an explanation for why far fewer trees are now said to be impacted. Citizens should be made aware of the process. Based on that, the agency should clarify whether the number can be brought down even further. BMRCL should be transparent," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of the Bangalore Environment Trust.

Experts argue that Bengaluru's Tree Expert Committee must be given a broader mandate, including the authority to recommend alignment tweaks where possible.

They also note that the project has been classified as Category A under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) guidelines for environmental and social considerations, which require a comprehensive evaluation of impacts at the planning stage.

These rules emphasise examining alternatives and mitigation measures early and reflecting them in the plan.

The EIA further highlights that some wildlife species listed in the IUCN Red List, such as the Bonnet Macaque in the project area may face disruption. "Bonnet Macaques run the risk of habitat fragmentation and disturbance due to construction noise or vibration, tree felling, and worker activities," BMRCL notes.

The report suggests creating canopy bridges to maintain movement corridors, planting native species to support foraging, and adopting noise-reduction strategies such as acoustic barriers and low-noise machinery. Training workers on environmental and wildlife protection has also been recommended.

Phase 3 of the Metro includes two corridors: a 32.2-km line with 22 stations and a 12.5-km line with nine stations. The EIA also flags significant groundwater contamination along the proposed route. Of the five groundwater samples collected, four showed higher-than-permissible biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels, indicating organic pollution.

BOD levels were recorded at 13 near Freedom Fighters Colony, 22 near Vinayaka Layout Station, 5 near Gopalan Innovation Mall in JP Nagar, and 7.33 in Kamashipalya.

Police track down cash van dacoits, recover ₹6.45 crore

Police have made remarkable breakthroughs in the sensational ATM cash–van dacoity of Wednesday, recovering ₹6.45 crore and arresting six accused within just 60 hours of the crime. The heist, initially believed to be a near-flawless crime facilitated by insider support, involved the hijacking of a CMS currency chest van carrying ₹7.11 crore.

According to police, the incident was first reported at 1.20 pm near DJ Halli by CMS staff, who claimed the vehicle had been stopped by individuals posing as RBI regulatory officers. However, investigations later established that the crime took place at around 12.48 pm near the Ashoka Pillar–Jayanagar–Dairy Circle stretch.

The gang intercepted the vehicle, seized the cash boxes, abandoned the van by 1.16 pm, and fled the spot. A case of dacoity at gunpoint was subsequently registered at Siddapura Police Station.

The crime posed a series of challenges for investigators. The gang avoided CCTV coverage by making precise stops in shadow zones, used no mobile phones during the operation, switched between multiple vehicles, and frequently changed number plates. Members communicated in different languages to mislead officials, and the stolen notes lacked serialisation, complicating the tracking process. Additionally, real-time media reporting based on unofficial inputs hindered sensitive aspects of early investigation.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, during a press conference, said the breakthrough came after an extensive manhunt involving more than 200 police personnel. Police officials noted that this could be one of the biggest robberies the city has witnessed so far. A massive multi-jurisdictional investigation was launched involving 11 PIs and two ACPs from the South Division, along with six PIs from the CCB. Teams followed technical and field leads across Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, with some tracing routes up to Goa. Over 30 individuals were questioned, and investigators analysed CCTV footage, vehicle movements, and local intelligence continuously.

Within 24 hours, police had identified the accused and vehicles used in the crime. By 54 hours, three suspects identified as Appanna Nayak, Gopal Prasad and J Xavier, were detained, and within 54 hours, ₹5.76 crore was recovered. One vehicle involved in the heist has also been seized.

Hours after the police announced the arrest of a constable and two associates linked to the robbery, another team tracked down three more accused Naveen, Nelson, and Ravi to a lodge in Hyderabad. They were identified through sustained CCTV follow-ups and confirmed during check-in. A team led by Inspector Ninganagouda and Sub-Inspector Kishore arrested the trio and recovered an additional ₹70 lakh.

With this, total recovery has risen to ₹6.45 crore, and the number of arrested accused stands at six. Police believe the gang comprises six to eight members involved in planning, execution, and managing the stolen cash. Two more suspects identifed Dinesh and Rakesh remain at large, and police teams have intensified efforts to trace them and recover the remaining amount. **BMB**

Govt school closure worries loom large

A sharper debate has broken out statewide after a few student organisations accused the Karnataka government of quietly using the Karnataka Public School (KPS) model to shut down thousands of government schools.

At a round-table in Bengaluru, leaders and education activists warned that if the KPS consolidation policy goes through, the State's 47,493 schools could shrink to just 7,000 KPS campuses, leaving nearly 40,000 institutions on the brink of closure.

They argued that the government had promised 500 new KPS campuses after taking a ₹2,500-crore loan from the Asian Development Bank but is instead rebranding existing schools without adding infrastructure.

Protesters said government schools continue to serve poor and marginalised children, yet instead of strengthening them with teachers and classrooms, the administration appears intent on closing them through administrative manoeuvres.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy alleged that schools attended by farmers' and daily-wage workers' children are being targeted for shutdown.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa rejected the charges, claiming the KPS model has strong parental support, with even private-school students shifting.

He said not a single school will be shut "even if it has one child," and announced bus services for students travelling long distances to KPS campuses. **BMB**

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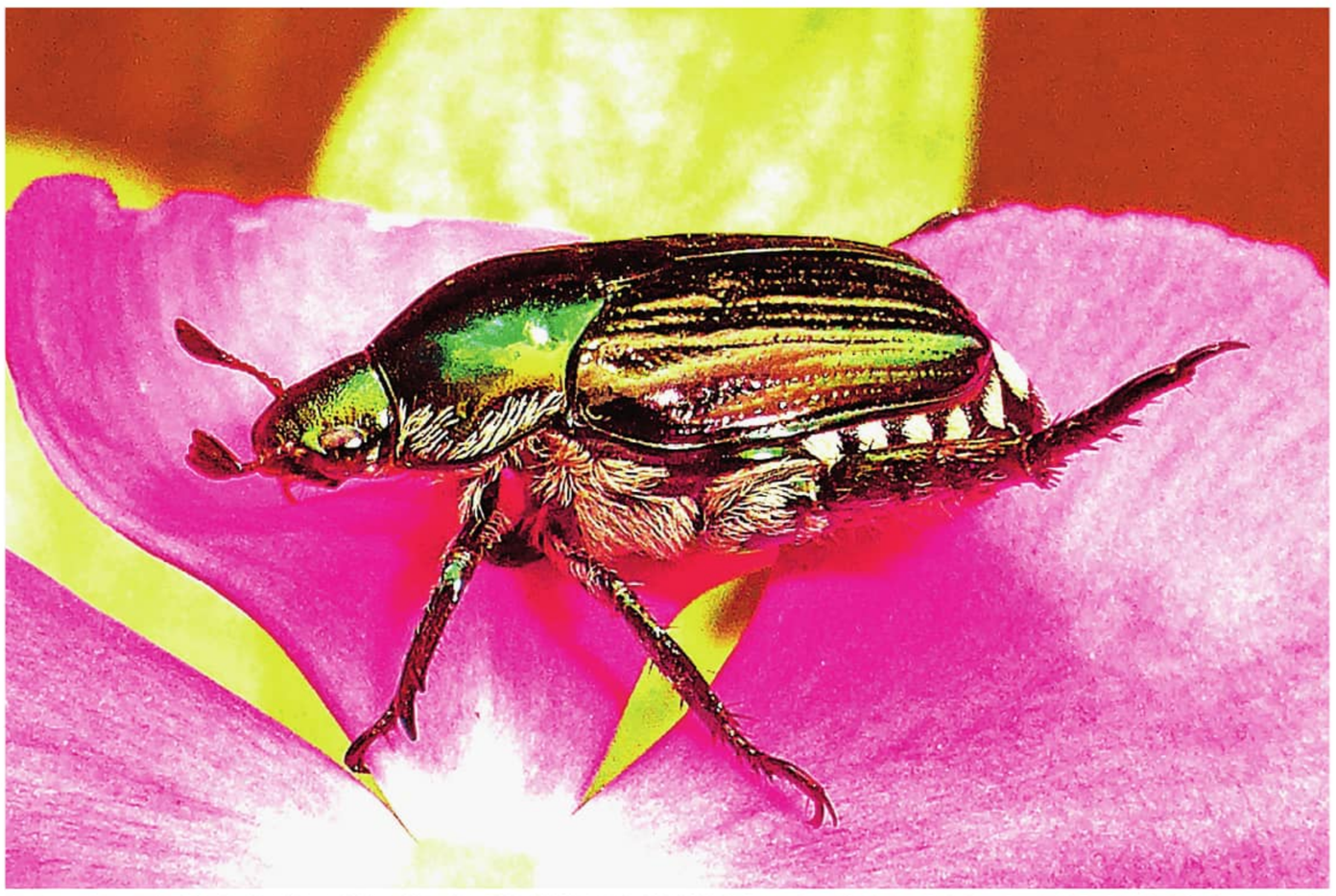
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

NATURE'S GENTLE SYMBIOSIS

Our reader shares a delicate moment from their garden, where a flower-chafer scarab nestles amid blooming periwinkle petals. Even as it feeds, the insect takes only gentle nibbles, helping pollination without harming the blossom—offering a quiet reminder of the subtle coexistence within nature's tiny ecosystems.



The picture was clicked by reader **P Suryanarayana**

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Tungabhadra jolt set to spike rice prices

Repair work halts second crop in the command region, triggering early stockpiling and signalling sharper price swings for Bengaluru households soon

A routine grocery purchase may soon pinch your pocket a little more as a major repair project on the 75-year-old Tungabhadra dam. One of the most important sources of rice for Bengaluru—has sparked early signs of a price rise in local markets. For the first time in its history, the dam will not release water for the second crop this year. That single decision is expected to sharply reduce the availability of popular rice varieties that Bengaluru depends on.

Much of the rice sold in the city's supermarkets and neighbourhood stores—especially varieties like Sona Masoori and RNR—comes from the Tungabhadra command region. This belt typically produces a substantial share of Karnataka's paddy

With no second harvest from the Tungabhadra belt, traders anticipate tighter stocks and pricier Sona Masoori and RNR

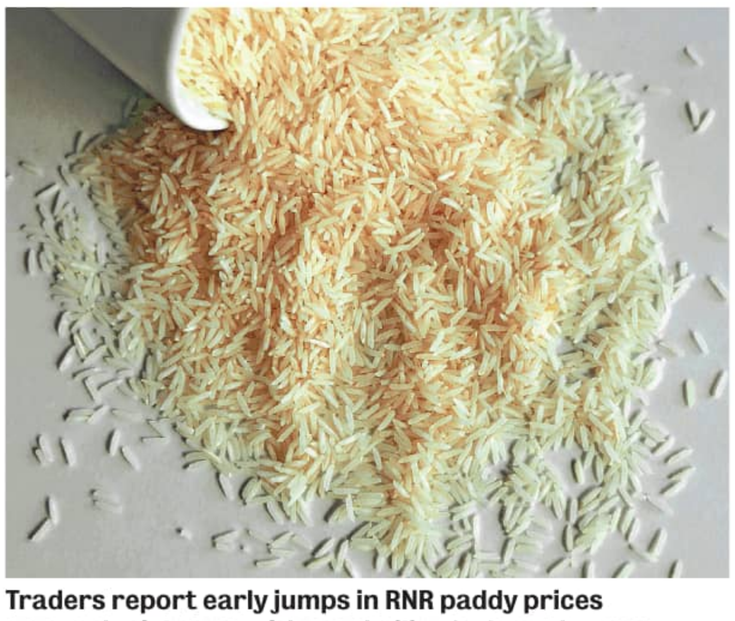
output, supporting not just domestic consumption but also neighbouring states and export markets. With the second crop now ruled out, the production buffer that usually stabilises Bengaluru's supply will shrink considerably, and traders warn that households should brace for fluctuations.

Prices have already begun to move. Traders say that as soon as the decision was announced, RNR paddy prices rose from around ₹1,950 per 75 kg to nearly ₹2,000. Market analysts believe this is only an early ripple, and that polished rice prices in Bengaluru could reflect the impact within weeks. Retailers report that suppliers are already signalling tighter stocks once the current monsoon harvest is exhausted.

The anticipation of reduced output is also prompting larger traders to stockpile paddy, hoping to secure higher margins in the summer months. This behaviour, they warn, could trigger shortages earlier than expected, intensifying the rise in retail prices even before actual scarcity sets in.

While Bengaluru is unlikely to face an immediate shortfall, the combined effect of lower production, stockpiling and rising procurement costs is expected to show up on store shelves. Medium-grain varieties, a staple in most homes, are likely to see the sharpest impact as the city's rice economy adjusts to the unprecedented halt in release from the Tungabhadra dam.

— BMB



Traders report early jumps in RNR paddy prices as supply tightens, with stockpiling by large buyers hinting at sharper summer spikes

DID YOU KNOW?

Kissing may not have begun with romantic human couples but with the ancient primate ancestors of today's great apes nearly 20 million years ago, according to a new study published on Wednesday. Researchers from Oxford University and the Florida Institute of Technology set out to trace when this behaviour first emerged, especially since kissing offers no clear survival advantage and can even facilitate the spread of disease. Yet humans, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans and gorillas all engage in forms of kissing, suggesting the behaviour was inherited from a shared ancestor. To investigate this evolutionary puzzle, scientists combined detailed field observations of primate social interactions with data on genetic and evolutionary relationships. Using these inputs, they ran millions of computational simulations to test various scenarios and identify when kissing first appeared. Their findings point to an origin between 21.5 and 16.9 million years ago. The team defined kissing as "non-aggressive, mouth-to-mouth contact not involving food transfer," covering both sexual and affectionate gestures. The study also proposes that Neanderthals and early humans likely kissed, supported by evidence of interbreeding and shared oral microbes. — Reuters

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Did Erika Kirk receive a $350,000 money transfer shortly before husband Charlie Kirk's assassination?

In the weeks following the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a campus event in Utah, an array of conspiracy theories has surged online—many of them centred on his widow, Erika Kirk. One of the most persistent allegations claims she received a US $350,000 money transfer shortly before the incident. However, according to a report by Hindustan Times and multiple fact-checking organisations, there is no factual basis for this narrative.

Erika Kirk Controversy: Claims of a Suspicious Transfer

Social-media posts that began circulating soon after the September 10 shooting allege that Erika Kirk accepted a $350,000 deposit into an account linked to her name weeks before her husband's death. These posts go on to assert that the sender company "vanished" just four days after the incident, and that a video allegedly shows Erika meeting two unidentified individuals within 48 hours of the shooting. The implication behind these narratives is that a covert financial arrangement may have preceded the attack, hinting at potential involvement or foreknowledge. Yet despite the drama tic framing, there is no independent evidence supporting any part of this theory. Investigations by news outlets and fact-checking platforms have traced the allegations back to unverified social-media accounts that offer no bank statements, regulatory filings, police records, or confirmations from credible institutions. The entire storyline appears to rely on conjecture and digitally manipulated content rather than verifiable documentation.

Widely debunked misinformation

Charlie Kirk's death at a Turning Point USA college-tour stop triggered an immediate barrage of online rumours. Fact-checkers note that these were amplified by artificial-intelligence tools, automated bot networks, and international disinformation channels that frequently exploit high-profile political events. The Anti-Defamation League documented more than 10,000 posts on X attempting to link the shooting to far-fetched conspiracy narratives involving intelligence agencies, foreign actors, and fabricated financial schemes. Within this atmosphere of rampant speculation, the $350,000 transfer claim emerged as just one more unsubstantiated allegation targeting Erika Kirk.

Erika Kirk's public role and rising speculation

In the aftermath of her husband's assassination, Erika Kirk publicly thanked first responders and committed to continuing his mission at Turning Point USA. She was appointed CEO and Chair of the organisation's board in September. Her emotional public appearances, including a widely shared video of her young daughter pointing to her father's image on a poster, generated sympathy—but also provided material for those seeking to spin new conspiracies.

Why the transfer theory fails scrutiny

The $350,000 claim collapses under investigation: no credible source has reported such a transaction; no official records or regulatory disclosures corroborate it; and analysts warn that the pattern of posts fits AI-generated misinformation campaigns designed for viral engagement. — ET Online

THE SUNDAY READ

Serpent strike

Lack of awareness on snake species, treatment methods behind uptick in cases, fatalities, say experts

| Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Data from the Health and Family Department has shown that Karnataka has witnessed a sharp rise in snakebite cases this year. This year till now, 18,611 cases have been reported, up from 11,391 last year during the same period and deaths have risen from 86 to 136. Snakebite remains a serious public health issue in India, disproportionately affecting rural and forest-edge communities where access to timely medical care is limited.

According to reports, India experiences an estimated 3–4 million snakebites each year, resulting in approximately 50,000 deaths, which accounts for nearly half of all snakebite fatalities globally. However, only a small proportion of victims seek treatment at hospitals or clinics, so the true burden is likely much higher than reported.

Data from the Central Bureau of Health Investigation (CBHI) (2016–2020) indicate that the average annual number of reported snakebite cases is around 3 lakh, with about 2,000 deaths directly attributed to snakebite envenoming.

Experts point out that a lack of awareness and limited access to healthcare in rural areas often delays treatment for snakebite victims. Rajesh Kumar, Founder of the Wild World Conservation Trust (WWCT), said, "Snakebite is largely a poor man's disease. In well-developed cities, antivenom is readily available, but people living in rural areas or near forests are the most vulnerable. Many hospitals are 15–20 km away, and victims often resort to traditional (naati) treatments due to lack of knowledge. Taluk hospitals frequently refer patients to larger centres, and by the time they reach proper care, it may already be too late."

He added that many farmers are unaware of different snake species, and often place their beliefs in myths and assume that all snakes are venomous. "People need practical, on-the-spot awareness about snake identification, bite prevention, and appropriate response. Some attempt dangerous methods, like tying ropes around the wound or making incisions to extract venom. Even if it's a non-venomous snake bite, the person gets so scared and goes in a shock, which worsens the situation. Victims should rush to the hospital immediately rather than delay or attempt traditional remedies such as sucking the wound," he said.

Project URAGA, led by WWCT, aims to fill this gap by promoting science-based understanding, respect, and coexistence with snakes by training and creating awareness.

According to WWCT, India is home to more than 300+ species of snakes and in Karnataka alone, around 60+ species live among us, of which only a few are venomous.

Nagabhushana, a wildlife rescuer from Bengaluru Rural, Hoskote, with three decades of experience, emphasised that snakes are not to blame, but the real issue is lack of awareness on how to respond to snakebites. He said, "The government and forest department should conduct awareness programs in rural areas, as many people do not know what to do after a bite."

He added, "Many people, even those with education, try to kill or remove the snake immediately, even when they know it is non-venomous. In India, there are around 300 snake species, of which 60 are venomous. Medically significant are the 'Big Four': Indian spectacled cobra, Russell's viper, common krait, and saw-scaled viper. Fatalities mainly occur from these species. We have sufficient antivenom available, and primary health centres (PHCs) and taluk hospitals should maintain adequate stock, especially during the monsoon, when snakes are more active. Even PHC doctors should be trained in proper snakebite management to save lives."

Recently an HFW order declared snakebite as a notified disease and also noted that snakebite deaths and complications continue to remain significant, and ordered for assured emergency care for all snakebite victims at the nearest available hospital.

> **"Snakebite is largely a poor man's disease. In well-developed cities, antivenom is readily available, but people living in rural areas or near forests are the most vulnerable. Many hospitals are 15–20 km away, and victims often resort to traditional (naati) treatments due to lack of knowledge**
>
> –Rajesh Kumar, Founder, Wild World Conservation Trust

How to prevent snakebite

- If you see a snake, just leave it alone and it will leave you alone
- Check before putting your hands or feet into bushes or grass, use a stick
- Always carry a torch at night, even close to home
- Keen the area around vour home clean and rat free. Snakes love rats
- Keep pathways clean of leaf litter
- Use footwear whenever possible
- Use a tucked in mosquito net when sleeping

Dos and donts

- Donts – don't panic
- Don't cut suck or wash bite area
- Don't tie tight apple or apply ice
- Don't self medicate
- Don't waste time, go to hospital immediately
- Don't go to faith healers

Dos

- Call for help immediately
- Stay calm and keep the patient calm
- Move away slowly from snake without disturbing it
- Immobilise the bitten part and keep it below hand level
- Relive right items like rings, bangles, watch, belt as the area may swell

(source WWCT)

US report calls out China's disinformation campaign

China ran a disinformation campaign during Operation Sindoor using fake social media accounts to propagate AI images of supposed French Rafale aircraft "debris" in favour of its own J-35s, according to a US Commission report.

The latest report to Congress of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission alleged that China used AI images of supposed "debris" from the planes that China's weaponry destroyed.

"Following the May 2025 India-Pakistan border crisis, China initiated a disinformation campaign to hinder sales of French Rafale aircraft in favor of its own J-35s, using fake social media accounts to propagate AI images of supposed "debris" from the planes that China's weaponry destroyed," read the report. According to the over 700-page report, Chinese embassies "hailed the success" of its systems in the India-Pakistan clash, seeking to bolster weapons sales. "According to French intelligence, China initiated a disinformation campaign to hinder sales of French Rafales in favour of its own J-35s, and it used fake social media accounts to propagate AI and video game images of supposed "debris" from the planes China's weaponry destroyed. Chinese Embassy officials convinced Indonesia to halt a purchase of Rafale jets already in process, furthering China's inroads into other regional actors' military procurements," it noted.

These alleged acts of China, according to the US's report, have been referred to as "gray zone".

In addition to reshaping norms of internationally accepted internal security behaviour, China has repeatedly resorted to coercive military, economic, and influence operations short of war--a range of activities often referred to as being in the "gray zone," the report, released earlier this week, noted.

China's role in the May 7-10, 2025, India-Pakistan military clash drew global attention as Pakistan's military relied upon Chinese weaponry, besides reportedly leveraging Chinese intelligence.

India strongly responded, faced with the terrorist attack sponsored by Pakistan that killed 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

During the clash, which India named 'Operation Sindoor', the Indian Army had asserted that China helped Pakistan with "live inputs" on Indian military positions throughout that faceoff.

According to the report to the US Congress, China's support to Pakistanis "effectively used the conflict as a testing ground for its own military capabilities". "Pakistan denied these allegations, and China neither confirmed nor denied its degree of involvement," the report read.

China is the largest defence supplier to Pakistan. China provided approximately 82 per cent of Pakistan's arms imports from 2019 to 2023, the report noted.

China expanded its military cooperation with Pakistan in 2025, compounding its own security tensions with India. In November and December 2024, China and Pakistan held the three-week Warrior-VIII counterterrorism drills, and in February 2025, China's navy participated in Pakistan's multinational AMAN drills, highlighting China's and Pakistan's growing defence cooperation, the report noted. "India's commentators viewed the drills as losses in their relationship with China and as direct security threats to its territorial positions," it added.

Beijing, according to the report, "opportunistically leveraged the conflict to test and advertise the sophistication of its weapons, useful in the contexts of its ongoing border tensions with India and its expanding defence industry goals." **–ANI**

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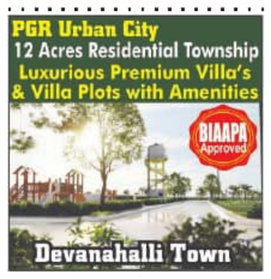

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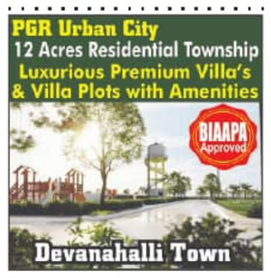

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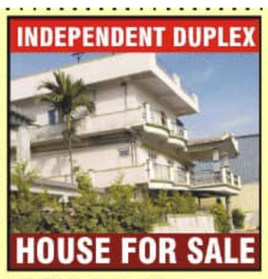

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K'taka-Kerala join hands against inter-state crime

Police departments in Karnataka and Kerala have agreed to intensify coordinated action against inter-state crime networks operating along the border, following a high-level review meeting at the commissionerate here on Saturday, officials said.

According to a statement issued by Mangaluru Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy C H, Kannur Range DIG Yatish Chandra G H and Kasaragod Superintendent of Police Vijay Bharath Reddy participated in the meeting, which he chaired.

Senior officers from the Mangaluru Commissionerate and Dakshina Kannada district were also present.

The meeting discussed key policing challenges faced by both border districts, including the movement of criminals across state lines, pending arrest warrants, absconding suspects, organised crime, and a rise in narcotics trafficking, the statement said. **PTI**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Samson Anthony Anthony, r/o No. 433, 9th Cross, M S Ramaiah North City, Thanisandra Main Road, Nagawara, Bengaluru – 560077, have changed my name to Samson Anthony for all purposes.

I, Amarnath.V R, R/o No 39, 1st Main, PM Enclave, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-65 changed My Name from Amaranath.V R to Amarnath.V R for all further purposes. (V R full form is Venkatenahalli Ramaswamy.)

I, Keit Franky Sherry Barretto & Daisy Rebello, R/at No. 68, 3rd Main, 10th Cross, Maruthi nagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064, have changed our minor daughter name from BARRETTO FAHEEMA to FAHEEMA BARRETTO, vide affidavit dt: 02.09.2025 before notary G.P Chaya, Bangalore.

I, Keit Franky Sherry Barretto & Daisy Rebello, R/at No. 68, 3rd Main, 10th Cross, Maruthinagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 have changed our minor Son's name from BARRETTO ELLIOT to ELLIOT BARRETTO, vide affidavit dt: 02.09.2025 before notary G.P Chaya, Bangalore.

I, SNEHA W/o Bhuwan Mathur R/at No. B1202, Nitesh Forest Hills Apartment, Kadugodi, Whitefield, Bengaluru- 560067 have changed my name to SNEHA BHARDWAJ Vide affidavit dated: 21/11/2025 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, Shaik Imtiaz Ahmed S/O, Shaik Abdul Hafeez R/o #852 Near Ameen Masjid K G Mohalla Kolar - 563101 Sub District - Bangarapet have changed my name to Shaik Imtiyaz Ahmed for all purposes.

Change of Name

We, Mallappa M.S. and Sandhya M. residing at Mindigal village, Munganahalli hobli, Chintamani taluk, Chikkaballapur district. Our daughter's name is incorrectly mentioned as Brundha M. in her birth certificate. But, we have named to our daughter as Yeshika Ram M.M. Our daughter's name is also mentioned as Yeshika Ram M.M. in the school documents. So, we request you to mention Yeshika Ram M.M. in her birth certificate instead of Brundha M. The above said information is true & correct. Therefore, we have filed an affidavit before advocate and notary P.V. Ramachandra Reddy, Chikkaballapur on 18.08.2025.

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Cybercriminals use psychological manipulation techniques

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of actor-director Upendra and his wife Priyanka Upendra were hacked, another high-profile cyberattack occurred in which Former Karnataka Chief Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has become a victim of cyber fraud, losing Rs 3 lakh after cybercriminals allegedly gained access to his bank accounts. The incident came to light on Tuesday night when Gowda noticed suspicious transactions while checking his phone messages.

Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer, explained, "People generally know the basic safety precautions whether during real-life emergencies or while navigating the online world. But when fear takes over, the mind stops responding logically. But in panic they forget everything they've learned because their mind goes blank under fear. In cybercrime situations, people know they shouldn't click unknown links, share OTPs, or trust suspicious messages. But scammers create urgency and fear claiming the victim's bank account will be frozen, or that the police will take action. People know they should not share OTP, but they give-in to the situation when they encounter a situation that creates urgency, thereby sharing the OTP."

Even though celebrities often become easy targets, it is largely because their personal information such as phone numbers, social media activity, and family details is more easily accessible online. This makes it simpler for scammers to craft targeted attacks. Cybercriminals rely heavily on psychological manipulation and social engineering, exploiting emotions like fear, urgency, or empathy.

"Like anyone else, celebrities too can fall victim to common scams whether it's sharing OTPs, getting trapped in digital arrest cases, or believing fake investment offers. In most situations, often due to a lack of specific digital literacy in that moment of crisis. At the end of the day its lack of awarness, everyone is caught up in their own fast-paced routines that they miss out on certain aspects."

He said that we often forget to take care of basic things such as verification. "People forget the simple rule: verify before you trust. When this verification step is skipped, they end up clicking suspicious links and walking straight into trouble. If they took just a moment to cross-check, many scams could be avoided. Blind trust is what makes people, including celebrities, vulnerable to cyber fraud.It is not only celebrities who fall for such scams, but even bank employees and police officials fall for these scams," Chetan Anand said.

In another incident, a city police constable lost Rs 5 lakh in a cyber fraud after he was added to a fake WhatsApp group posing as the State Bank of India's group. The scammers sent an APK link claiming his KYC had to be updated urgently. Believing the warning, he entered his banking details, after which the fraudsters withdrew the money through multiple transactions. The incident occurred on October 25 between 4 pm and 5 pm. He later called the 1930 cyber helpline and filed a police complaint.

A 24-year-old bank employee from Basaveshwara Nagar lost ₹5.9 lakh in a part-time job scam after receiving a Telegram message offering daily earnings for simple tasks like rating movies. Lured by initial small returns, he invested larger amounts through a fake trading platform, "Cboe Global Market." Between October 1 and 31, he transferred ₹5,90,850 via multiple bank accounts. Once the money was deposited, the fraudsters blocked withdrawals and demanded more payments, leaving him cheated.

In another case, a 58-year-old techie lost ₹31.83 crore after scammers posing as DHL, CBI and RBI officials kept her under "digital arrest" for two months. Manipulated through fear, she made 187 transactions, transferring most of her assets for fake verification. The fraud came to light only after the scammers cut contact.

'Bureaucrats make all decisions, citizens have no say'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opened for objections and then finalised. Political leaders across major parties quietly admit this timeline is "impossible" to meet. A former corporator said, "None of our MLAs want these elections. Neither the previous government nor the current one is interested. Unless courts give strict directions, polls will simply not happen. "

Name games

In South Corporation, Jayanagar's Marenahalli has been renamed "South Ward", while in the North, the earlier Chowdeshwari Ward has become "Raja Kempegowda Ward", with the "Annie Besant" name dropped. West Corporation has removed Mangal Pandey and Rani Jhansi ward names, replacing Binnypet with the new "Dr. Vishnuvardhan Ward". Notably, this corporation already hosts Dr. Rajkumar and Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar wards. In the East, "Talakaveri" gets a name change; in the North, "Aruna Asif Ali" makes way for a new label.

The naming of Bengaluru North City Corporation's Ward No. 2 as "Aakash Ward" has sparked a political fire, with Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath alleging it was named after Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's son and questioning what 'Aakash' had contributed to merit a civic honour, especially when the area earlier formed part of the historic Kempegowda Ward. During delimitation, Maruthinagar, Srinivasapura and Venkatala were merged under the new label, even as several heritage pockets—including Yelahanka Old Town with the fort and Venugopalaswamy temple—were renamed or shuffled, prompting demands to restore the old Chowdeshwari Ward name. Vishwanath also blasted the exercise as "unscientific," citing how Doddabettahalli Ward now oddly stretches across Doddaballapur Main Road to Lakshmipura Cross and swallows parts of Attur without geographic logic.

Safe gig: Digital platforms laud new labour codes

Companies welcome new labour reforms requiring welfare contributions and expanding long-overdue social security protections for India's gig and platform workers

New labour rules formalise gig and platform work, pushing firms to ensure improved welfare benefits without destabilising long-term business operations

IN FOCUS
Labour reforms

Zomato, Blinkit and Amazon back the revamped labour framework, saying clearer rules and mandatory welfare contributions will improve worker protections without hurting business stability, marking a major shift in India's gig economy

Digital platforms on Saturday welcomed the Union government's decision to implement the four new labour codes, stating that the reforms will significantly strengthen social security for gig and platform workers while creating a clearer and more predictable regulatory framework for the expanding digital economy.

Zomato's parent company, Eternal Limited, said the implementation of the new codes—particularly the Code on Social Security (CoSS)—will help deepen and streamline social security access for gig workers associated with its food-delivery and quick-commerce verticals. The company noted that while the finer financial and operational implications will become clear only after the government notifies the corresponding Rules, it does not expect the new requirements to undermine the long-term stability of its business.

In a regulatory filing, Eternal said the consolidation of multiple labour laws into four uniform codes would ensure greater consistency and clarity for both the industry and the broader ecosystem. "One of these four codes, the Code on Social Security, 2020, strengthens social security access for gig workers across the country, including those who power our Zomato and Blinkit businesses," the firm said. It added that the company had been engaging with the government for several years in anticipation of such reforms and has already been preparing for the mandated contributions.

Eternal reaffirmed its commitment to gig-worker welfare, emphasising that it currently offers a range of comprehensive insurance and welfare benefits at no cost to workers. "We support any measures that further enhance outcomes for gig workers and welcome this announcement," it said.

Amazon also expressed support for the government's labour reforms, stating that the Code on Social Security aligns with its principles of ensuring worker safety and welfare.

The government formally notified the four labour codes on Friday, replacing 29 older laws. The Codes on Wages, Industrial Relations, Occupational Safety, and Social Security aim to simplify compliance, formalise employment, and reflect global standards. Importantly, they define "gig work," "platform work," and "aggregators" for the first time, mandating that aggregators contribute 1–2% of annual turnover to gig-worker welfare, capped at 5% of payouts made to such workers. **–IANS**

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

A picture of MG Road from 1950 posted by @beastoftraal has sent every Bengalurean down the lane of nostalgia.

Another post by Karnataka Portfolio X handle fastforwaded us to 2600, asking what if Ejipura looked like this in the year 2600CE?

Karnataka Portfolio @... · 31 Oct
What if Ejipura looked like this in the year 2600 CE?
#bengaluru #bangalore #ejipura
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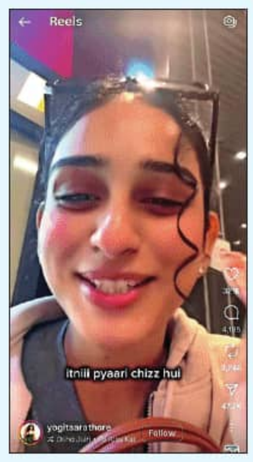
EJIPURA, BENGALURU
circa 2600 CE

WHATS TWEETING

A viral video on X has captured a heart-warming moment from Bengaluru. A woman travelling to the airport had been venting on a phone call to her friend, saying her flight was at 2 am and she was extremely hungry. Hearing this, the cab driver quietly pulled over, stepped out for a few minutes, and returned with a sandwich for her. When the surprised passenger asked why he went out of his way, the driver simply said, "What if my sister was hungry like this?" The gesture has since won widespread praise online.



INBRIEF

Myanmar cyber-trap survivors flown home safely

A total of 125 Indians, including 25 from Karnataka, who were duped with promises of high-paying foreign jobs and trafficked by cyber-fraud gangs in Myanmar, have been rescued and brought back to India with assistance from Thai authorities. The Indian Embassy in Thailand coordinated the operation, moving the victims from Myanmar into Thailand before facilitating their return. After immigration checks, they were handed over to representatives of their respective states on Thursday morning.

The returnees have described severe abuse. They were first contacted on social media with attractive job offers in Bangkok, but upon arrival were forcibly taken across the border into Myanmar and pushed into online scamming operations. Those who resisted were threatened at gunpoint, fed weeks-old duck eggs, and even subjected to electric shocks. Some were forced to work up to 17 hours a day and told to pay as much as 6 lakh for release—without any assurance of freedom.

With such trafficking-linked cyber scam rackets rising, Indian authorities have issued strong advisories warning job seekers to avoid Telegram-based fake job ads. Since last March, more than 1,500 Indians have been rescued from similar camps across the region. **–BMB**

State to launch branded vacuum-packed fish

Karnataka is gearing up to give its fish the "Nandini-style treatment," with the Fisheries Development Corporation set to introduce branded, vacuum-packed, ready-to-cook fish by January–February. The move comes amid complaints about inconsistent quality in fish sold under the corporation's name and aims to offer consumers a cleaner, safer, and more convenient option. Fish will be sourced directly from major hubs like Malpe, pre-cleaned, processed, chilled at zero degrees, and packed in ½-kg and 1-kg FSSAI-approved vacuum packs. These will be sold through the corporation's 28 Bengaluru outlets and other centres statewide. Managing Director U. Mahesh Kumar said branding processed packs is the first step before investing in dedicated machinery. Officials believe the initiative will build public trust, boost Karnataka's fish identity, and support farmers. **–BMB**

Uneasy calm after a storm

AI rally shows cracks as investors question risks

Alphabet Chief Executive Sundar Pichai recently said no company would be unscathed if the artificial intelligence boom collapses, but Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang on Wednesday shrugged off concerns

The biggest bout of volatility in US stocks in months has revealed cracks in the artificial intelligence-related rally, raising questions about whether the market has been in the grips of a speculative bubble that may be popping.

Soaring valuations in AI stocks this year have stoked worries that Wall Street may be inflating another speculative bubble, with some of these fears coming to the fore after a stellar earnings report from AI bellwether Nvidia failed to rally the stock and broader market. In recent days investors have been watchful of emerging signs of cracks in the AI investment narrative. Several high-flying AI stocks have experienced sharp pullbacks, questions are mounting about when AI investments will translate into actual profits, and concerns are growing that enthusiasm may be outpacing the technology's near-term capabilities. Investor sentiment has been rattled recently by several developments, including a noticeable dip in retail traders' enthusiasm for "buying the dip."

This caution comes alongside a hit to Oracle bonds on news the company plans to increase its substantial debt to finance artificial intelligence infrastructure, and as lenders seek greater protection on loans to major tech companies, citing concerns over debt-financed AI investments.

The boom and recent retreat in AI and AI-adjacent stocks has drawn comparisons to some of history's most notorious market manias, from the dot-com frenzy of the late 1990s to the more recent cryptocurrency boom.

At the heart of investors' concerns about a market bubble are lofty valuations. Despite the recent pullback, valuations remain elevated and investors are wary of risks around customer capital spending and financing, plus challenges in expanding data center capacity amid energy constraints and memory chip shortages.

Alphabet Chief Executive Sundar Pichai recently said no company would be unscathed if the artificial intelligence boom collapses, but Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang on Wednesday shrugged off concerns.

Not all bubbles are created equal, and the warning signs that signal the buildup of excess in one bubble can differ significantly from those in another.

Historical data shows dramatic variations in how asset manias unfold - from the speed of their collapse to the years required for recovery. The Japanese stock market crash of the early 1990s took decades to recover, while the 2021-2022 crypto crash played out in a matter of months.

Understanding these patterns matters for investors trying to gauge whether today's AI enthusiasm represents rational exuberance over a transformative technology or the kind of speculative excess that ends in tears.

Early days

The Nasdaq's current trajectory during the artificial intelligence boom bears a striking resemblance to its dot-com era path, albeit with less exuberance, backing the view that if this is a bubble it may still be early stage.

The tech-heavy index climbed roughly 100% in the three years following ChatGPT's November 2022 launch, mirroring the early stages of excitement that followed Netscape's August 1995 IPO.

Not there yet

A key ingredient in past stock market bubbles has been runaway investor optimism, which appears to be absent now.

The American Association of Individual Investors survey, a weekly poll that measures investor sentiment among individual retail investors in the U.S. stock market, shows bullish sentiment at 38%, in line with its long-term average. That's a far cry from the 75% high hit in January 2000 or even the 57% high scaled during the meme-stock mania in 2021. **Reuters**

US court orders Byju Raveendran to pay over $1 billion, firm to appeal

A US bankruptcy court has ordered Byju's founder Byju Raveendran to pay over $1.07 billion, holding him personally liable for the movement and concealment of funds from Byju's Alpha, the company's US-based financing arm.

The default judgment, issued by Judge Brendan Shannon of the Delaware Bankruptcy Court, follows Raveendran's repeated failure to comply with directions to appear before the court and provide documents, according to multiple media reports.

A default judgment is a ruling issued when a party does not participate in the litigation or ignores court orders, allowing the court to decide the case without a trial.

Meanwhile, Byju Raveendran denied all allegations and informed that he will appeal the US court judgment. Raveendra said that the US Court default judgement was issued on an expedited basis and precluded him from presenting a defence.

"The Court, in our view, ignored relevant facts. Byju Raveendran must be allowed to present a defence and has been denied the right to do so by expediting the trial," the statement said. "The Delaware Court

Judgement also does not address the fact that GLAS Trust has been aware that the monies from the Alpha loans were not used by Byju Raveendran or any Founder of BYJU's for their personal gain but were used for the benefit of Think & Learn Private Limited (TLPL)," it added.

Byju's Alpha, incorporated in Delaware in 2021, was established as a special-purpose vehicle to manage a $1.2 billion term loan from a consortium of global lenders. The subsidiary had no operating business and functioned primarily as a holding entity for the loan proceeds. However, $533 million was transferred from Alpha to Camshaft Capital, a small hedge fund in Miami, and later moved through affiliated entities such as Inspilearn and later to an offshore trust, without any consideration returning to Byju's Alpha, court filings showed. **–IANS**

BITS & BYTES

NO CHIP ON SHOULDER

The Trump administration is considering greenlighting sales of Nvidia's H200 artificial intelligence chips to China, people familiar with the matter said, as a bilateral detente boosts prospects for exports of advanced US technology to China.

The Commerce Department did not respond to a request for comment. Nvidia did not comment directly on the review but said current regulation does not allow the company to offer a competitive AI data center chip in China, leaving that massive market to its rapidly growing foreign competitors. **Reuters**

AI TRAINING GONE AWRY

Design software company Figma was hit with a proposed class action in California federal court on Friday for allegedly misusing its customers' designs to train artificial intelligence models.

The lawsuit said the company used its customers' data and intellectual property without permission to train its generative AI tools, which according to the complaint led to San Francisco-based Figma's "sky-high valuation" in a $1.2 billion initial public offering earlier this year.

"We do not use any customer data to train our models without explicit authorization to do so," a Figma spokesperson said in a statement. **Reuters**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

The US judge considering whether to order a breakup of Google's advertising technology business asked the Department of Justice on Friday how quickly such a remedy would take effect, saying, "time is of the essence."

Google has so far come away largely unscathed from a bipartisan government legal crackdown on the dominance of Big Tech — a push that began during the first term of President Donald Trump. But that could change, depending on what U.S. District Court Judge Leonie Brinkema in Alexandria, Virginia, decides in the DOJ's case over Google's ad tech. **Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: Chicken soup is a natural decongestant that clears nasal passages which is rich in protein and aid in healing

Broccoli is high in vitamin C which helps it to fight infections naturally

BangaloreMirror | 13
Sunday, November 23, 2025
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All you need to know about...

Foods to tackle pollution

1. Eat Fruits And Vegetables High In Antioxidants
Pollution triggers the release of free radicals – unstable molecules that can cause cell and tissue damage – in the body. Antioxidants help neutralise these effects. Vitamin C-rich foods such as amla, oranges, guava, and bell peppers help strengthen the lungs and reduce oxidative stress. Leafy greens such as spinach and methi supply chlorophyll, which promotes the oxygenation of blood and improves lung function.

2. Pick Omega-3 Fatty Acids For Inflammation Control
Poor air quality might cause irritation of the airways, potentially resulting in wheezing or shortness of breath. Omega-3 fatty acids act as natural anti-inflammatories. Add flaxseeds, walnuts, chia seeds, or fatty fish such as mackerel and sardines to your diet. Even a small daily serving can help calm respiratory inflammation and keep lung tissues more elastic.

3. Seek Sulphur-Rich Foods For A Natural Detox
Foods such as garlic, onions, and cruciferous vegetables – which include broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage – contain sulphur compounds that aid the liver in processing and eliminating toxins, including those that one breathes in, from the body. Garlic, in particular, supports lung health by improving circulation and fighting bacteria or infections that worsen respiratory symptoms.

4. Ensure Hydration And Herbal Support
Hydration thins mucus and keeps airways clear. Warm liquids, such as herbal teas, tulsi water, and warm lemon water, soothe an irritated throat and improve oxygen flow. Turmeric, ginger, and black pepper contain spices that act as natural anti-inflammatories and open up air passages.

Vidhi Chawla, dietician, Femina (All views are the author's own)

Food to warm your soul

2 recipes specially curated to make wintry days even better

AVOCADO CITRUS SALAD

The salad offers a bright, refreshing vegan option to balance heavier winter fare. Creamy avocado provides texture and healthy fats, while citrus segments lift the palate, adding a subtle seasonal brightness. Toasted sunflower seeds contribute gentle warmth and crunch, and the citrus vinaigrette ties it all together, delivering a revitalizing, nutrient-rich dish that feels both fresh and comforting in winter.

INGREDIENTS (SERVES 2-3)

For the Salad:
- 2 cups baby arugula leaves
- 1 medium pomelo, peeled and segmented (or substitute pink grapefruit)
- 1 ripe avocado, sliced or cubed
- 2 tbsp toasted sunflower seeds
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper, to taste

For the Citrus Vinaigrette:
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp fresh orange juice
- 1 tbsp lime or lemon juice
- ½ tsp maple syrup or agave nectar
- ½ tsp Dijon mustard (optional, for a hint of tang)
- A pinch of sea salt

METHOD
- Peel and segment the pomelo, removing any tough membranes. Slice the avocado and gently toss with a few drops of lime juice to prevent browning.
- In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, orange juice, lime juice, maple syrup, Dijon mustard, and salt until emulsified. Taste and adjust sweetness or acidity as desired.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine baby arugula, pomelo segments, and avocado. Drizzle the vinaigrette over and toss lightly to coat.
- Transfer to a serving platter. Sprinkle toasted sunflower seeds on top and finish with a grind of black pepper. Serve immediately for the freshest flavour.

MOONG DAL AUR NARIYAL SHORBA (VEGAN YELLOW LENTIL & COCONUT BROTH)

Moong Dal Aur Nariyal Shorba is perfectly suited for winter dining and vegan diets alike. Its slow-cooked lentils provide warmth and nourishment, while coconut adds a creamy richness without relying on dairy. Carefully balanced spices, ginger, cumin, black pepper, and curry leaves—bring gentle heat and depth, creating a comforting, soul-warming dish that feels hearty yet light.

INGREDIENTS (SERVES 4)
- ½ cup yellow moong dal (split yellow lentils)
- 1 cup freshly grated coconut (or ½ cup thick coconut milk)
- 1 tbsp coconut oil
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1–2 green chilies, slit lengthwise
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- 1 small piece ginger, finely chopped
- 4–5 fresh curry leaves
- Salt to taste
- 4 cups water or vegetable stock
- Fresh coriander leaves, for garnish
- A squeeze of lemon juice, to finish

METHOD
- Wash the moong dal thoroughly. In a saucepan, add dal, turmeric, and 3 cups of water. Simmer until the lentils are soft and cooked through. Lightly mash and set aside.
- Blend grated coconut with ½ cup warm water to make a smooth paste. (Skip this step if using coconut milk.)
- Heat coconut oil in a pan. Add cumin seeds and let them splutter. Add curry leaves and slit green chilies; sauté until fragrant. Stir in the chopped ginger and cook for a few seconds.
- Add the cooked dal and the coconut paste (or coconut milk) to the tempering. Pour in the remaining water or vegetable stock. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Simmer gently for 5–7 minutes to let the flavors meld.
- Adjust seasoning, then squeeze in a dash of lemon juice before serving. Garnish with fresh coriander and crisp curry leaves. Serve hot with toasted sourdough or steamed rice on the side.

Recipes by Vilas Dhankute, Executive Chef at Grand Mercure Bangalore

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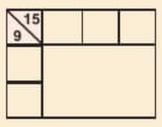
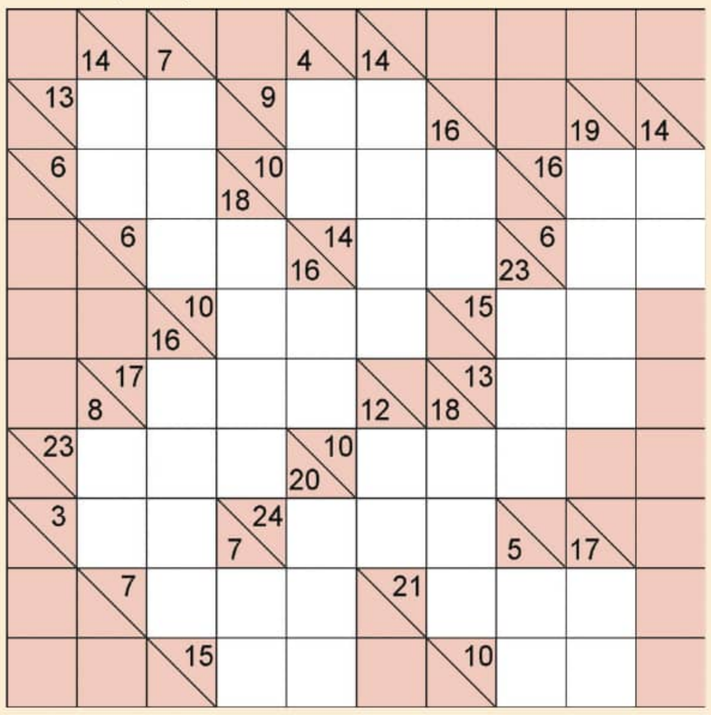
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

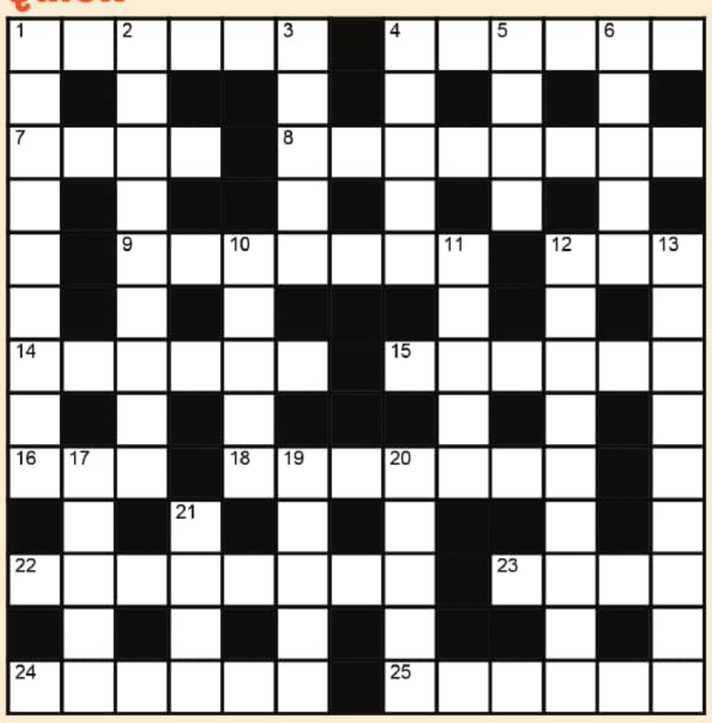
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A salad vegetable (6)
4 Fight against (6)
7 French word for "we" (4)
8 Accounts checkers (8)
9 Shutting (7)
12 Ind. Bankers Assoc. (3)
14 Altitude (6)
15 She-monster (6)
16 Fuel consumption unit (3)
18 Come in again? (2-5)
22 South ____ : a person from Brazil or Peru, for example? (8)
23 Ancient France (4)
24 Flee from (6)
25 Former German chancellor ___ Merkel (6)

DOWN

1 Road that is also known as Sampangi Ramaswamy Temple Road (9)
2 Beginning or commencing in a big way (9)
3 A very long time (5)
4 French sculptor (5)
5 Abolished Indian custom (4)
6 Brush-like growth (5)
10 Remaining one (5)
11 Leg of lamb (5)
12 Make drunk (9)
13 The island continent (9)
17 Tyre inflators? (5)
19 A master of ceremonies (5)
20 Ex-PM Gulzari Lal ___ (5)
21 An extent of land (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS O

AFF NLIZ JHWQAC NHC OT NH-BWTJJ HWB AZT NHBBTJA FR HMM, AF JTT MQRT HJ QA QJ HWB WFA HJ QA JZFLMB OT.

Linemaro

You look lovelier than an ice cream on a hot summer day

Mindchow

The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love colour the most

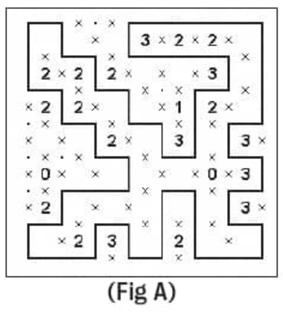
Joke of the day

Confucius say...do not argue with spouse who is packing your parachute

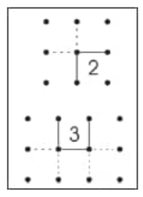
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

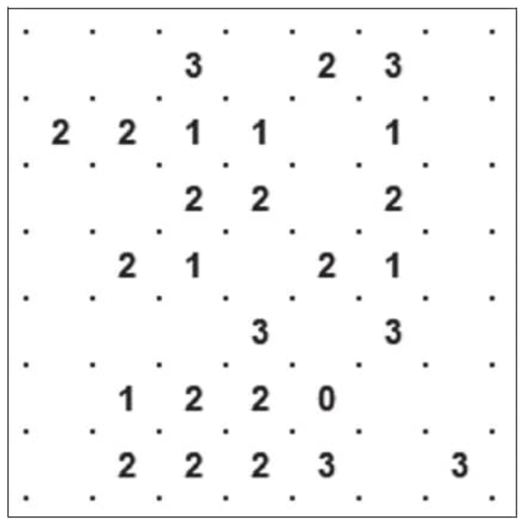


(Fig B) Not Allowed

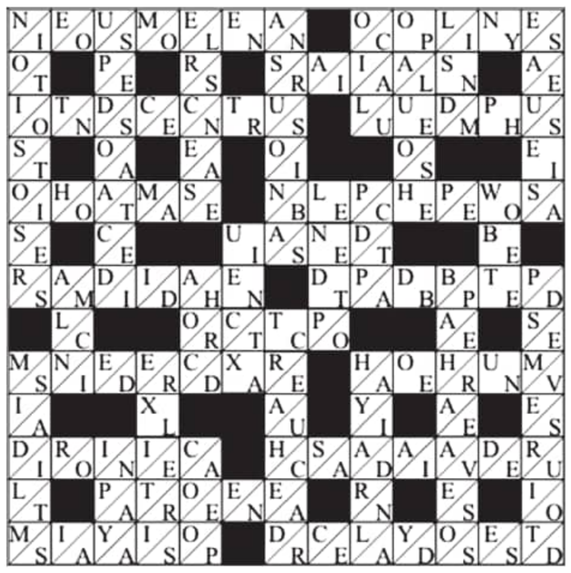
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



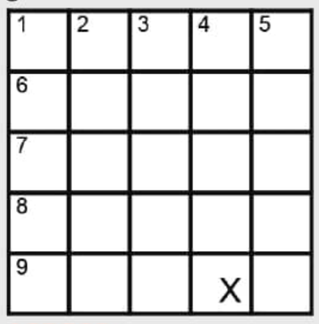
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

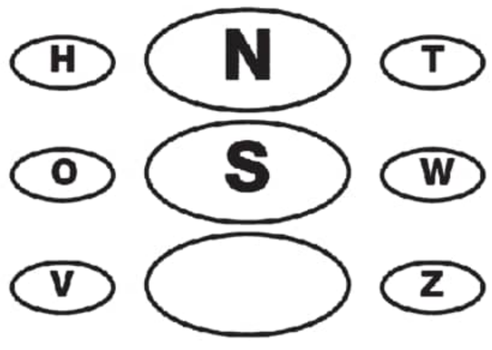
1 To mar; 6 Ameer; 7 Mean E; 8 Grace; 9 Ay tax

DOWN

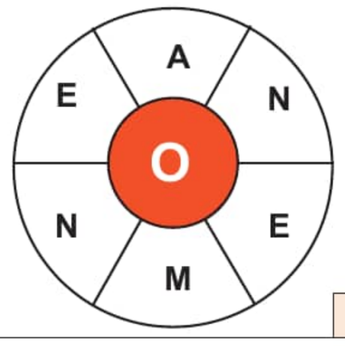
1 A race; 2 Atman; 3 O Mage; 4 Rex me; 5 A tyre

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8	1	5		3			
2		9	6					
4				9	8			
8	2			5				
9		7				4		8
				7			3	1
			1	2				3
					6	8		9
			9		4	1	7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

2 3 5 6

Medium = 8

2 6 7 7

Hard = 12

2 4 4 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

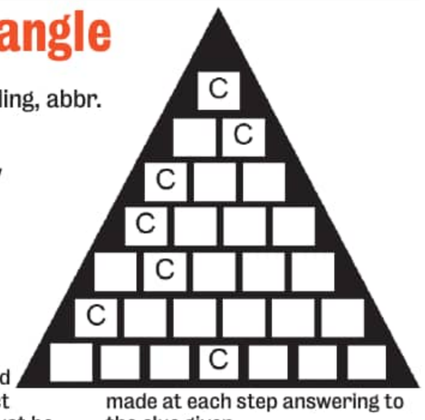
Differences: 1. Hat is moved. 2. Womans hair is longer. 3. Pot handle is missing. 4. Cake is taller. 5. Apron bow is lower. 6. Nose is different.

Riddler

I often fall from up above, Sweet or bitter and sometimes free, Use me to declare your love, I'm worth more than most any. What am I?

Alpha triangle

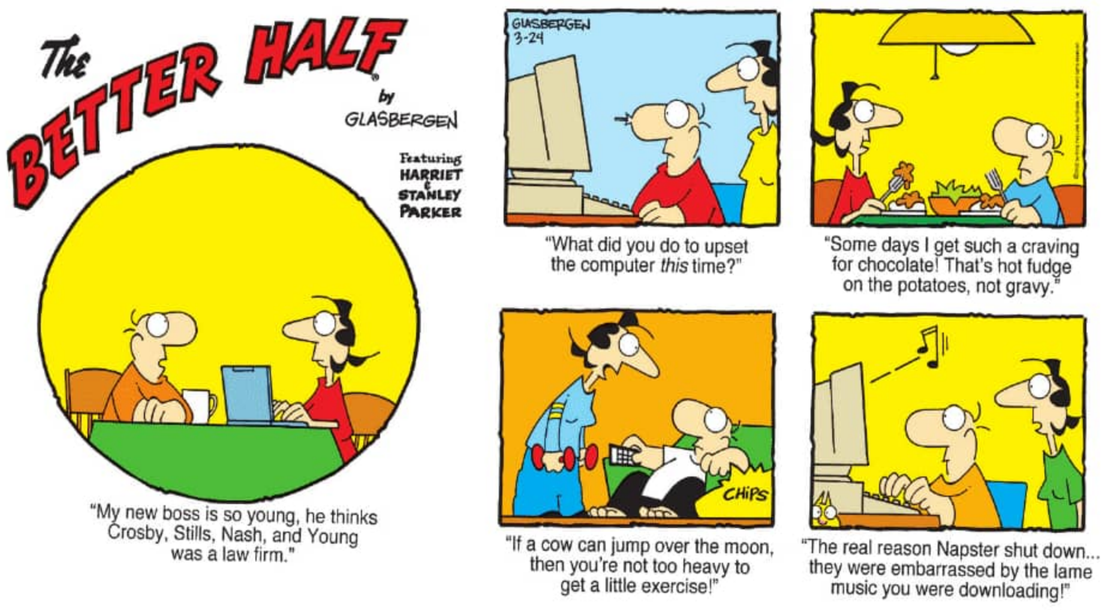
1 Vitamin type
2 Officer Commanding, abbr.
3 Company bigwig
4 Dunce cap shape
5 Biscuitlike pastry
6 Selected
7 V-shaped cuts

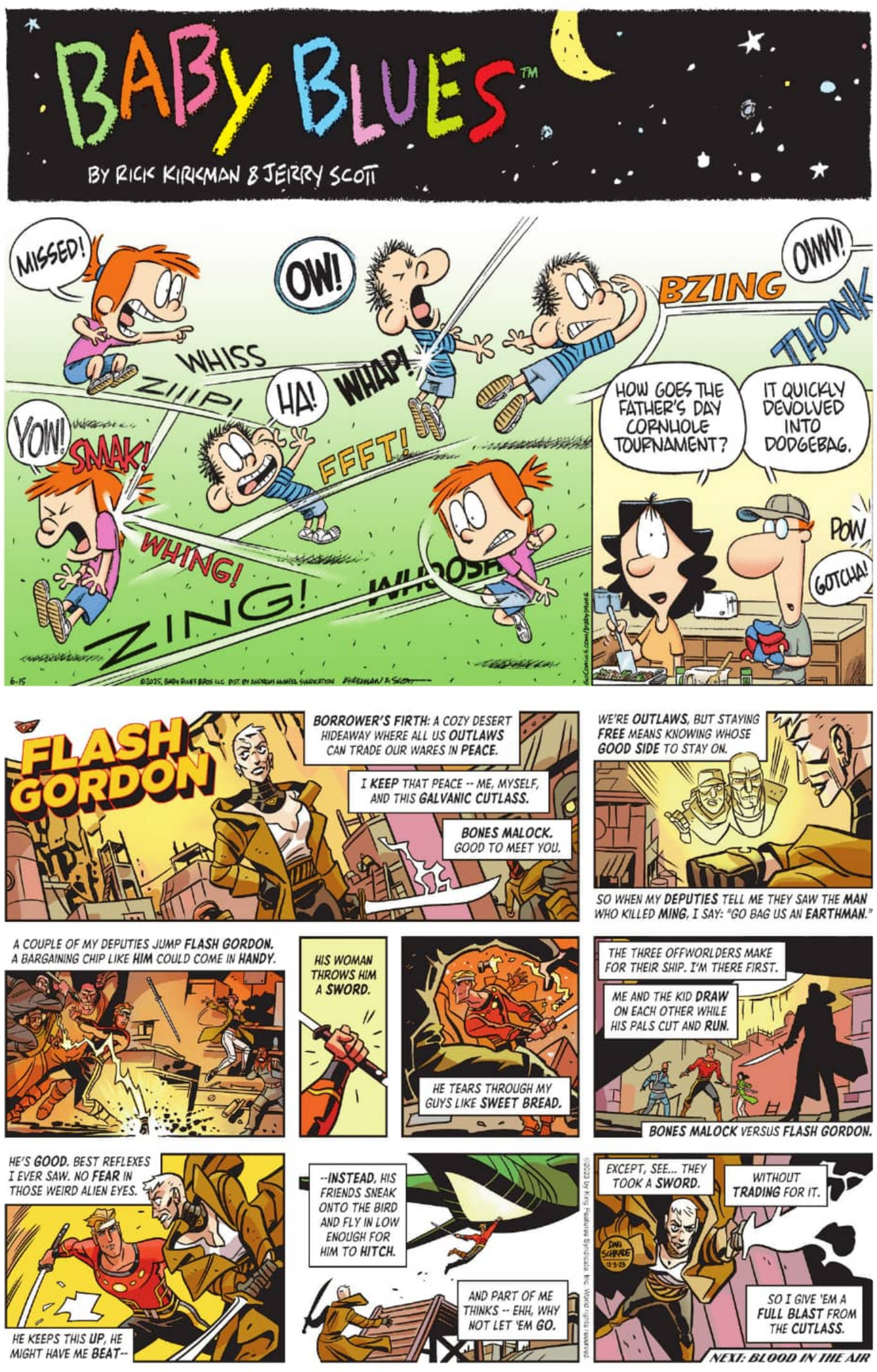


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"My new boss is so young, he thinks Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young was a law firm."
GLASBERGEN 3-24
"What did you do to upset the computer *this* time?"
"Some days I get such a craving for chocolate! That's hot fudge on the potatoes, not gravy."
CHIPS
"If a cow can jump over the moon, then you're not too heavy to get a little exercise!"
"The real reason Napster shut down... they were embarrassed by the lame music you were downloading!"


BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
MISSED!
OW!
WHISS
ZIIIP!
HA!
WHAP!
BZING
OWW!
THONK
YOW!
SMAK!
FFFT!
WHING!
ZING!
HOW GOES THE FATHER'S DAY CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT?
IT QUICKLY DEVOLVED INTO DODGEBAG.
POW
GOTCHA!
FLASH GORDON
BORROWER'S FIRTH: A COZY DESERT HIDEAWAY WHERE ALL US OUTLAWS CAN TRADE OUR WARES IN PEACE.
I KEEP THAT PEACE -- ME, MYSELF, AND THIS GALVANIC CUTLASS.
BONES MALOCK. GOOD TO MEET YOU.
WE'RE OUTLAWS, BUT STAYING FREE MEANS KNOWING WHOSE GOOD SIDE TO STAY ON.
SO WHEN MY DEPUTIES TELL ME THEY SAW THE MAN WHO KILLED MING, I SAY: "GO BAG US AN EARTHMAN."
A COUPLE OF MY DEPUTIES JUMP FLASH GORDON. A BARGAINING CHIP LIKE HIM COULD COME IN HANDY.
HIS WOMAN THROWS HIM A SWORD.
HE TEARS THROUGH MY GUYS LIKE SWEET BREAD.
THE THREE OFFWORLDERS MAKE FOR THEIR SHIP. I'M THERE FIRST.
ME AND THE KID DRAW ON EACH OTHER WHILE HIS PALS CUT AND RUN.
BONES MALOCK VERSUS FLASH GORDON.
HE'S GOOD. BEST REFLEXES I EVER SAW. NO FEAR IN THOSE WEIRD ALIEN EYES.
HE KEEPS THIS UP, HE MIGHT HAVE ME BEAT--
--INSTEAD, HIS FRIENDS SNEAK ONTO THE BIRD AND FLY IN LOW ENOUGH FOR HIM TO HITCH.
AND PART OF ME THINKS -- EHH, WHY NOT LET 'EM GO.
EXCEPT, SEE... THEY TOOK A SWORD.
WITHOUT TRADING FOR IT.
SO I GIVE 'EM A FULL BLAST FROM THE CUTLASS.
NEXT: BLOOD IN THE AIR

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Career opportunities take you on a journey, expanding your horizons both literally and metaphorically. Finances improve steadily through smart, meticulous long-term planning. Love is adventurous and incredibly exciting; try many new things together as a couple. Your family fully supports your freedom; their blessing is with you in your explorations.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You 've been carrying too much tension lately. Take time to unwind and recharge. Rest, reflect, and shed the past before dazzling the world again with your renewed, radiant spark.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
True prosperity begins in your mind. Your life is your masterpiece; paint it freely. Balance dreams with practicality; without harmony between vision and execution, even the grandest art stays incomplete.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Gentleness and clarity bring more power than force. Speak softly yet purposefully. Reconnect with your inner innocence; it's your hidden strength. The cosmos reminds you: subtle energy shapes real influence.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your empathy and innocence make you shine. They gift you wisdom and connection. Collaborate and share freely; your community and compassion build abundance, success, and joy in every form.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Simplify your world. True richness lies in peace, not possession. Collaboration sustains strength. The soul seeks balance, not conquest; detox your mind and rediscover serenity through genuine connection.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Playfulness awakens insight. Joy fuels remarkable creation, not pressure. As you embrace responsibility and space for your passions, your soul expands, guiding your contributions toward deeper purpose and freedom.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Curiosity is beautiful, but depth brings fulfilment. Pause, reflect, and explore life's nectar instead of rushing. Seeing the larger picture brings clarity, grounding, and gratitude for surrounding love.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You radiate charisma, blending strength and D. sensitivity. Beneath your magnetism lies warmth and deep emotion. Love, not glamour, fuels your soul; celebrate your people; they're your true light and strength.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You're no outsider, Sag, you 're a swan among ducks. Embrace your individuality fearlessly. Walk your path with confidence; the right tribe will recognise your brilliance and cherish your authenticity fully.

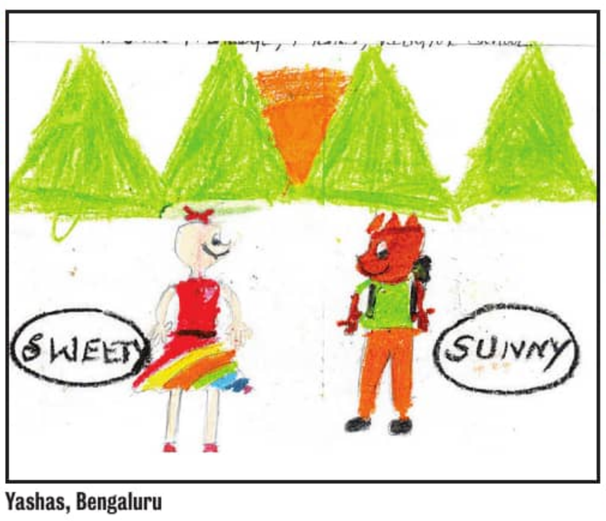
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Curiosity ignites your brilliance. Share your insights; confidently, guiding others with wisdom and adaptability. Lead by example and embody the visionary messenger within you; your awareness sparks inspiration everywhere.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Choose joy in life's small wonders. Pleasure quiets your restless mind and nurtures inner freedom. Celebrate independence without isolation; your delight uplifts others and fills the world with light.

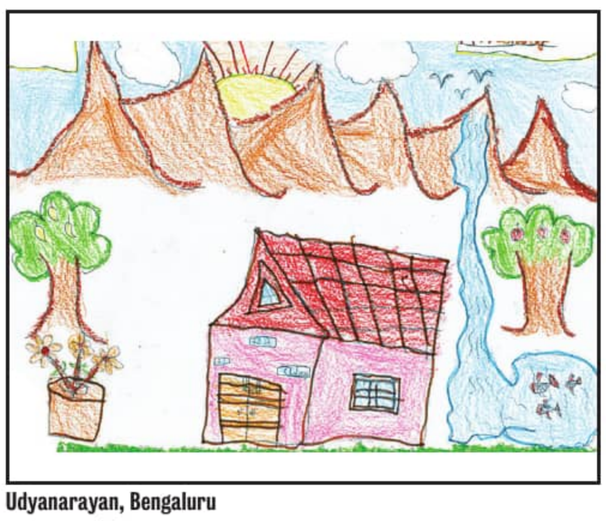
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Listen deeply, observe wisely. Your gentle heart heals through humour and grace. Replace bluntness with wit, sorrow with colour; seeing from a higher view restores balance and brightens everything.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Yashas, Bengaluru


Udyanarayan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
- 10 / [(20 / 4 * (5 / 5)] * 8 - 2
(- 10 / 5) * 8 - 2
- 10 / (5 * 1) * 8 - 2
- 2 * 8 - 2
- 16 - 2 = - 18

STRIKE OUT

N	O	U	M	E	N	A	■	O	P	I	N	E		
O	P	■	R	■	R	A	I	L	S	■	A			
I	N	D	E	N	T	S	■	L	U	M	P	S		
S	■	A	■	E	■	O	■	■	S	■	E			
I	O	T	A	S	■	N	E	P	H	E	W	S		
■	■	E	■	■	■	I	S	N	T	■	E	■	■	■
R	A	D	I	A	N	■	D	A	B	B	E	D		
S	I	D	E	C	A	R	■	H	O	H	U	M		
A	■	X	■	A	■	Y	■	A	■	E	■	■		
E	N	E	M	A	■	C	A	D	A	V	E	R		
I	O	N	I	C	■	C	A	N	E	■	E	I		
L	■	A	T	O	N	E	■	R	■	E	■	■		
S	A	Y	S	O	■	D	E	A	D	S	E	T		

QUICK

E	S	C	A	P	E	■	A	N	G	E	L	■		
■	P	■	E	■	E	■	D	■	T	■	I	■		
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	■	G	A	U	L		
■	U	■	A	■	M	■	A	■	I	■	A	■		
M	■	P	G	■	R	E	E	N	T	E	R	■		
A	■	N	■	E	■	O	■	B	■	■	T	■		
H	E	I	G	H	T	■	O	G	R	E	S	S		
G	■	H	■	T	■	I	■	N	■	■	U	■		
I	■	C	L	O	S	I	N	G	■	I	B	A		
N	■	N	■	R	■	I	■	■	U	■	■	■		
N	O	U	S	■	A	U	D	I	T	O	R	S		
U	■	A	■	E	■	O	■	A	■	H	■	■		
C	L	E	R	Y	■	R	E	S	I	S	T	■		

MENSA PUZZLE
X. The letters in the central column come midway in the alphabet between the left and right hand numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE
Too much sanity may be madness and the maddest of all, to see life as it is and not as it should be.

SUDOKU

6	8	1	5	4	3	7	9	2
2	3	9	6	1	7	5	8	4
4	7	5	2	9	8	3	1	6
8	2	3	4	5	1	9	6	7
9	1	7	3	6	2	4	5	8
5	4	6	8	7	9	2	3	1
7	9	8	1	2	5	6	4	3
1	5	4	7	3	6	8	2	9
3	6	2	9	8	4	1	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, OC, CEO, Cone, Scone, Chosen, Notches.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 3 - 6 + 2 = 4
Medium
6 + 7 + 2 - 7 = 8
Hard
4 x 2 - 4 x 3 = 12

LOOP

KAKURO

RIDDLER
Apple

BULL'S EYE
aeon, ANEMONE, moan, neon, none, omen

FAST FIVE

A	M	O	R	T
E	N	E	M	A
C	A	G	E	R
R	A	M	E	E
A	T	A	X	Y

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Shraddha hurt on sets, shooting postponed
Shraddha Kapoor fractured her foot while shooting for a biopic on the legendary Tamasha performer Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar and shooting has been halted

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Strength of a woman

Rashmika waxes eloquent on feminine energy

Actress Rashmika Mandanna recently paused her hectic routine to talk about what "feminine energy" truly means to her. The 'Animal' star explained that this energy gives women the ability to sense things clearly — whether it's people or situations.

She said it often helps them feel when something isn't right, even before they understand the reason.

Sharing her thoughts on Instagram, Rashmika posted a note that read:"There's something about feminine energy..I don't know how to explain it but when you're really in tune with yourself.. you just know. You see through things… through people… through situations... You feel something is off way before it actually happens, your gut tells you, but you ignore it because life makes it complicated.. (sic)."

Rashmika added that when women support one another and truly listen to each other's struggles, life becomes a little easier.

She also reminded everyone that women are truly unstoppable when they stand together.

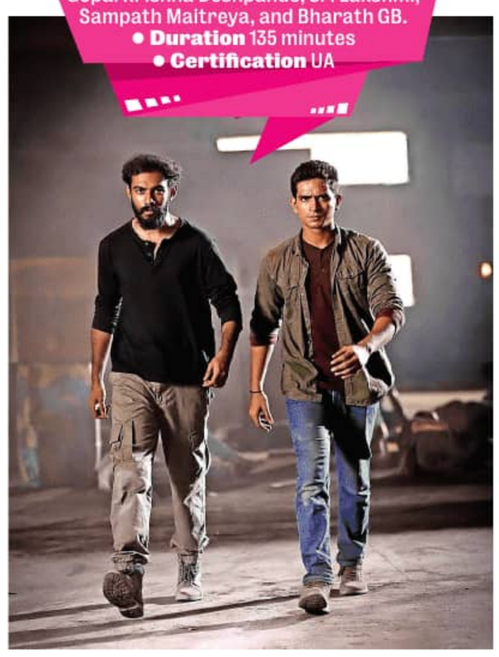
"And then there's another thing I've learnt over the years…There is something so magical about women holding other women..women healing women.. women listening to each other with just that gentle "I'm here" energy," the 'Animal' actress added.

Vowing to protect the feminine energy she finds so precious, Rashmika went on to share, "It took me sooo long to understand it… but now that I have, I'll protect it with everything I've got. Feminine energy is not weak..It's soft, yes… but it's strong, intuitive, protective and full of love." **–ETimes**

Loud, action packed take on medical mafia

THE TASK (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Raghu Shivamogga
- **ACTORS** Jayasurya R Azad, Sagar Ram, Achyuth Kumar, Raghu Shivamogga, Sangeetha Bhat, Balaji Manohar, Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Sri Lakshmi, Sampath Maitreya, and Bharath GB.
- **Duration** 135 minutes
- **Certification** UA



Raghu Shivamogga has handled the megaphone for this film and plays one of the villains in it. He has selected the right subject – medical mafia – that creates awareness on the precautions to be taken while signing documents at hospitals and throws light on the other side of corporate hospital managements that go to any extent to make money by ruining the lives of hapless patients. But, the movie would have been engrossing had the director ensured crisp screenplay and cut down on the noisy background music. The movie is also riddled with too many action scenes.

The movie begins with a function to felicitate stars of social media. Nagesh, an ambulance owner who helps the needy, is one of the stars. Rajesh (Achyuth Kumar), a retired police officer, who runs an NGO, is also felicitated for his service to children. At this juncture, the director introduces Kanti (Jayasurya R Azad) and Vishnu (Sagar Ram) who were in prison for attacking a warden. Rajesh arranges to rehabilitate them. Meanwhile, Prathima (Sangeetha Bhat), a lawyer, seeks Rajesh's help to bring Siri (Sri Lakshmi), a school girl from Sampaje, to Bengaluru. Rajesh gives the task of kidnapping Siri to Kanti and Vishnu. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Kanti and Vishnu complete the task.

As far as the performances go, Jayasurya Azad, who has acted in the films Salaga and Bheema, has improved a lot. He is good in action scenes. Sagar Ram, who was in the movie Pentagon, has acted well. Raghu Shivamogga, who plays one of the villains – Barmappa – is convincing as a notorious rowdy. Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Balaji Manohar, Sampath Maitreya, and Achuth Kumar are good support.

The movie is worth a watch if you like action movies.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

Iconic role

Tamannaah Bhatia has built a strong presence in Bollywood after years as a leading star in South Indian cinema, and her admiration for screen legend Sridevi is inevitable. In a recent interaction with news agency IANS, Tamannaah was asked which style icon she would most like to play on screen. Without pausing, she chose Sridevi and said, "It would be Sridevi, ma'am. I think she was super iconic, and she's someone I have always admired."

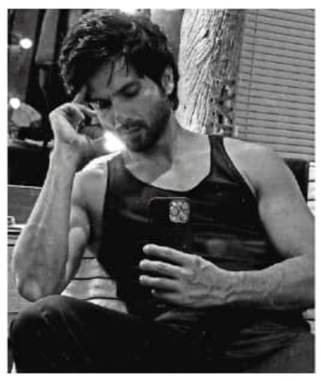
Tamannaah's wish to portray Sridevi is not new. She had earlier opened up about this dream in a conversation with Mumbai Mirror. Looking back on her childhood, she said, "I have always looked up to Sridevi ji as a young girl. I always thought that if there's a biopic that I would love to be a part of, I want to play Sridevi ji on celluloid."

Her words underline how much Sridevi shaped her idea of stardom and performance.

For Tamannaah, the opportunity would not just be another role but a heartfelt tribute to the woman who inspired her to become an actor. **–ETimes**

Shahid Kapoor back to fitness regime

Looks like Shahid Kapoor is back to his intense fitness regime. The video dropped by the 'Vivaah' actor on social media shows him lifting weights in the gym, working on those bulky biceps. Later, Shahid picks up another set of weights and continues with the exercise.



Once done with the workout, the 'Jab We Met' actor was seen grooving to the energizing music playing in the backdrop.

Dropping the video on the photo-sharing app, Shahid shared, "Chasing the pump with my boy @bodyholics back to it like old times. (sic)."

Work-wise, Shahid will soon be seen leading Vishal Bhardwaj's "O' Romeo", alongside Triptii Dimri, Nana Patekar, and Randeep Hooda.

Set against the backdrop of 1990s Mumbai, the project talks about the post-independence underworld. The drama marks the 4th collaboration between Shahid and the director after "Kaminey", "Haider", and "Rangoon". **–IANS**

How Dia takes a break

Actress Dia Mirza seems to be unwinding after hectic shooting schedules. The actress was recently seen on a nature expedition while sneaking in some time for herself from her shooting schedule.

Dia shared a few pictures of herself on her social media account wherein she was seen exploring nature and was out on a quick trek with her team.

Mirza captioned the post as, "What is the first thing I do when I get my first few hours off after many looooooooong shoot days?"

In one picture the actress is seen clicking pictures of the mountains, while in another she is seen posing amidst the dense forest and scenic nature.

In another picture, Dia can be seen smiling with her team who accompanied her to the trek. On the work front, Dia recently wrapped up the shooting for her upcoming love story with Rahul Bhat.

The actress had also shared glimpses from the wrap-up celebration on social media. **–IANS**